REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-21, 23-28, and 30-34 are pending in the application. Claims 31-34 have been added in this amendment. Claims 8, 17, 22, and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9-10, 18-19, 23, and 30 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated August 11, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claims 8, 17, 22, and 29 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 8. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 17. Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 22. Claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in claim 29. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-21, 23-28, and 30 are in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 23 of the specification has been objected to as incorrect. The Examiner indicates that the biasing means discussed biases the piston to an opposite end, not to the centered position. Applicant disagrees, since a return spring force can be provided in order to return the piston to any predetermined position not necessarily an end position of the housing. For example, the uncompressed position of a return spring force can position the piston in any desired predetermined location including the centered position of the housing. Therefore, the Examiner's objection indicating that the biasing means would result in moving to an opposite end position is not understood, particularly if the housing extends beyond the uncompressed dimension of a return spring. However, in order to move the prosecution of the application forward, paragraph 23 of the specification has been amended to now indicate that the piston 18 can be biased toward a predetermined position, such as the discrete centered position with respect to the housing 20. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to the specification is requested.

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Claims 31-34 have been submitted for the Examiner's consideration. A corresponding number of claims, namely claims 8, 17, 22, and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice in this amendment. Claims 31-34 have support in the specification as originally filed. The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraph [0010] of the original specification as filed. The Examiner's consideration of new claims 31-44 is requested.

This after final amendment: (1) does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, since the proposed amendments incorporate previously recited limitations from dependent claims into the independent claims and these limitations have been previously considered and searched by the Examiner; (2) does not raise the issue of new matter, since the proposed amendments have support in the originally filed application including the specification, claims and drawings; (3) does places the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing and/or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or (4) does not present additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

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If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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